AMENDMENTS

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1. (Currently Amended) A connector system for coupling an optical fibre assembly to an optical component, comprising:

a connector body having a throughbore adapted to receive an optical fibre assembly in use, the optical fibre assembly is removably retained in the connector body such that it can be repeatedly removed therefrom and reinserted therein, the connector system can be arranged such that one or more discrete rotational orientations of the optical fibre assembly within the connector's throughbore can be identified and arranged; and

a polarising element for polarising electromagnetic radiation that passes through it located in the throughbore such that electromagnetic radiation passing through the throughbore will pass through the polarising element.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the polarising element has a polarising axis, and wherein the polarising axis is indicated on the connector system.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising fixings provided in or on the connector body for fixing the connector body to another component, wherein the polarising element is arranged in a fixed relationship relative to said fixings.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~ the optical fibre assembly, and wherein the polarising element is mounted in or on and is carried by the optical fibre assembly.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the polarising element is mounted in or on the connector body.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the polarising element is mounted on or in another component that is in or can be carried in the connector body.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the polarising element is in use fixed in a particular alignment relative to the connector body.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the connector system is arranged such that a single discrete rotational orientation of an optical fibre assembly within the connector's throughbore can be identified and arranged.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a separable keying component which mates with the connector body in a fixed orientation with respect to rotation about the longitudinal axis of the connector body throughbore, the keying component being securable to an optical fibre assembly.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more adjustors for adjusting the lateral position of an inserted optical fibre assembly within the connector body throughbore.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the connector body comprises a manipulator having a throughbore for receiving an optical fibre assembly in use, which

manipulator includes one or more adjustors that are adjustable by a user to move an inserted optical fibre assembly relative to the manipulator in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the manipulator throughbore.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the polarising element is mounted on or in the manipulator.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the manipulator further comprises a resilient biassing arrangement for resiliently biassing an inserted optical fibre assembly against the adjustors when it is inserted in the manipulator.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a separate carrier that receives the optical fibre assembly in use.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the polarising element is mounted on or in the carrier.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a separable keying component that is securable to an optical fibre assembly and mates with at least the carrier in one rotational orientation only.

18. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a resilient biassing arrangement for resiliently biassing the optical fibre assembly against the connector body.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the resilient biassing arrangement is arranged such that when an optical fibre assembly is inserted, the resilient biassing arrangement retains some resilience.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the resilient biassing arrangement is arranged such that the biassing force can be selectively removed and reapplied.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

one or more adjustors for adjusting the lateral position of an inserted optical fibre assembly within the connector body throughbore; and

a user operable member for selectively removing and reapplying the biassing force; wherein the user operable member for removing and reapplying the resilient biassing force can be accessed by a user from the same side of the connector body as the adjustors.

22. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the resilient biassing arrangement is arranged to apply the resilient biassing force automatically when an optical fibre assembly is inserted in the connector body, but is operable by a user to release the force being applied.

23. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a separate carrier that receives the optical fibre assembly in use, a first resilient biassing arrangement for biassing an inserted optical fibre assembly against the connector body and a second resilient biassing arrangement for biassing the carrier against the connector body.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first resilient biassing arrangement is arranged such that the resilient biassing force on the optical fibre assembly can be selectively removed and reapplied.

25. – 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) ~~An adjustable connector system for coupling an optical fibre assembly to an optical component, comprising:~~ A connector system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a carrier having a carrier body having a carrier throughbore adapted to receive ~~an~~ the optical fibre assembly in use; ~~and~~

wherein the connector body comprises a manipulator having a manipulator body having a manipulator throughbore adapted to receive removably the carrier and optical fibre assembly in use, the manipulator further including one or more adjustors which are engageable against the outer surface of the carrier when it is inserted in the manipulator throughbore and are adjustable by a user to then move the carrier relative to the manipulator in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the manipulator throughbore; the system further being arranged such that when an optical fibre assembly is inserted in the carrier movement of said adjustors to effect movement of said carrier relative to the manipulator causes corresponding movement of the optical fibre assembly relative to the manipulator. ~~; and the system further comprising a polarising element for polarising electromagnetic radiation that passes through it located in the throughbore such that electromagnetic radiation passing through the manipulator throughbore will pass through the polarising element.~~

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the polarising element is mounted on or in the carrier.

29. (~~Original~~) (Currently Amended) ~~A connector system for coupling an optical fibre assembly to an optical component, comprising:~~ A connector system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a carrier having a carrier body having a throughbore for receiving the optical fibre assembly in use; ~~a connector mount comprising a connector mount body having~~ wherein the connector body comprises a throughbore for receiving the carrier and optical fibre assembly in use; and the connector system further comprises a retainer for retaining the optical fibre assembly, the carrier and the connector ~~mount~~ body in a fixed relationship to each other when the optical fibre assembly and the carrier are inserted in the connector ~~mount~~ body in such a manner that the optical fibre assembly is removable from the connector ~~mount~~ body independently of the carrier once it has been inserted therein~~; and a polarising element located in the connector mount throughbore~~.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29 wherein the polarising element is mounted on or in the carrier.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~An adjustable connector system for coupling an optical fibre assembly to an optical component, comprising:~~ A connector system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a carrier having a carrier body having a carrier throughbore adapted to receive the optical fibre assembly in use; ~~and~~

wherein the connector body comprises a manipulator having a manipulator body having a manipulator throughbore adapted to receive removably the carrier and the optical fibre assembly in use, the manipulator further including one or more adjustors which are engageable against the outer surface of the carrier when it is inserted in the manipulator throughbore and are adjustable by a user to then move the carrier relative to the manipulator in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the manipulator throughbore; the system further being arranged such that when the optical fibre assembly is inserted in the carrier movement of said adjustors to effect movement of said carrier relative to the manipulator causes corresponding movement of the optical fibre assembly relative to the manipulator; and wherein the carrier includes one or more lands on its outer surface arranged such that the carrier can be inserted into the manipulator in such a way that the adjustors will in use engage only the lands, the lands further being arranged such that the carrier can only be so inserted into the manipulator in one or more discrete orientations with respect to rotation about the longitudinal axis of the manipulator throughbore; and the carrier includes a separable keying component which mates with the carrier body in a fixed orientation with respect to rotation about the longitudinal axis of the carrier throughbore, the keying component being adapted to be securable to an optical fibre assembly such that while it is so secured it remains in a fixed orientation with respect to rotation about the longitudinal axis of the optical fibre assembly. ~~; and the system further includes a polarising element for polarising electromagnetic radiation that passes through it mounted in or on the manipulator or in or on the carrier such that electromagnetic radiation passing through the manipulator throughbore will pass through the polarising element.~~

32. (Currently Amended) ~~An adjustable connector system for coupling an optical fibre assembly to an optical component, comprising:~~ A connector system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a carrier having a carrier body having a throughbore adapted to receive the optical fibre assembly in use, the carrier being removably positioned in the connector body; ~~and a connector having a connector body having a throughbore adapted to receive removably the carrier and the optical fibre assembly in use;~~

~~wherein~~ the connector body further ~~including~~ includes a first resilient biassing arrangement for resiliently biassing ~~an inserted~~ the carrier against the connector body, and a second resilient biassing arrangement for resiliently biassing ~~an inserted~~ the optical fibre assembly against the carrier and thereby against the connector body.

33. (Orignal) The system of claim 32, wherein the second resilient biassing arrangement is arranged such that the resilient biassing force on the optical fibre assembly can be selectively removed and reapplied.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~An adjustable connector system for coupling an optical fibre assembly to an optical component, comprising~~: A connector system according to claim 1, wherein the connector body includes:

a manipulator having a manipulator body having a manipulator throughbore adapted to receive removably the optical fibre assembly in use; the manipulator further including one or more adjustors which are adjustable by a user to move an optical fibre assembly inserted in the manipulator throughbore relative to the manipulator in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the manipulator throughbore, a resilient biassing arrangement for resiliently biassing an inserted optical fibre assembly against the adjustors, and a user-operable member for selectively removing and applying the resilient biassing force to resiliently bias an inserted optical fibre assembly against the adjustors; wherein the adjustors and user-operable member for selectively applying the resilient biassing force are arranged such that they are accessible by a user from the same side of the manipulator body.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~An adjustable connector system for coupling an optical fibre assembly to an optical component, comprising:~~ A connector system according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a connector having a connector body having a connector throughbore adapted to receive removably an optical fibre assembly in use; the connector further including~~ a resilient biassing arrangement for resiliently biassing an inserted optical fibre assembly against the connector body;[[,]] and

a user-operable member for selectively applying the resilient biassing force that is moveable in use to draw the resilient biassing arrangement towards and away from an optical fibre assembly which is inserted in the ~~connector~~ throughbore, the resilient biassing arrangement being arranged on an opposing side of the ~~connector~~ throughbore to the user-operable member for selectively applying the resilient biassing force.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~An adjustable connector system for coupling an optical fibre assembly to an optical component, comprising:~~ A connector system according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a connector having a connector body having a throughbore adapted to receive removably the optical fibre assembly in use; the connector further including~~ a resilient biassing arrangement for selectively resiliently biassing an inserted optical fibre assembly against the connector body; wherein the resilient biassing arrangement for selectively applying a resilient biassing force is arranged such that the adjustment it provides is constrained to ensure that there is always some resilient play left in the resilient biassing arrangement.

37. – 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The carrier of claim 38, wherein the body of the carrier~~ A connector system according to claim 15, wherein the ~~connector body~~ carrier has one or more substantially planar lands on its outer surface ~~surrounding the throughbore~~.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~A carrier for an optical fibre assembly, comprising: a body having throughbore for removably receiving the optical fibre assembly; a polarising element mounted in the throughbore; and~~ A connector system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a separate carrier that receives the optical fibre assembly in use;

a separable collar which mates with the ~~connector~~ carrier body in a fixed orientation with respect to rotation about the longitudinal axis of the ~~throughbore~~ carrier, the collar being adapted to be securable to ~~an~~ said optical fibre assembly such that while it is so secured it remains in a fixed orientation with respect to rotation about ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of the optical fibre assembly.

41. – 42. (Cancelled)